

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

NEW SERIES, VOL. II, No. 4

APRIL 15, 1923

"Responsibilities gravitate to the person who can shoulder them and power flows to the man who knows how."—HUBBARD.

TO MEMBERS:

A JOINT meeting of the National Children's Home and Welfare Association and the Child Welfare League of America will be held at the Hamilton Hotel, 14th and K Streets, Washington, D. C., from Monday, May 14th, at 8 P. M. until Wednesday, May 16th, at 4.30 P. M. Programs in advance on request.

Headquarters for rooms at Lee House, 15th and L Streets; under the same management, five minutes' walk from Hamilton Hotel. Rates, single room with bath, \$3.50 per day; double rooms with bath, twin beds, \$5.00 per room.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the League, held on March 23d in Cleveland, Ohio, the following organizations were elected to full membership:

NEW YORK—Dutchess County Board of Child Welfare, Poughkeepsie, 42 Market Street. Miss Katharine L. Brett, Supt.

OHIO—The Welfare Association for Jewish Children, Cleveland, 401 Electric Building, Miss Ethel Davis, Director.

SOUTH CAROLINA—The Juvenile Welfare Commission of Charleston, 35 Broad Street. Miss Louisa deB. FitzSimons, Director.

TEXAS—Texas Children's Home and Aid Society, Fort Worth, 515 Cotton Exchange Building, Roy Stockwell, Superintendent.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP—

GEORGIA—State Department of Public Welfare, Atlanta. Miss Rhoda Kaufman, Acting Secretary.

NEW YORK—Joint Committee on Methods of Preventing Delinquency, New York City, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue. Graham Romeyn Taylor, Director.

Territorial agreements will be published later.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. ARESON

The importance of the work of the Committee on Group Movements in Child-Care, appointed last fall, has become increasingly apparent, and at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the League, held in

Cleveland, March 23d, the Director was authorized to appoint a member of the staff to undertake development of this work. Mr. C. W. Areson on April 1st became Secretary of the Committee, and the work that had previously been undertaken by the Chairman, Mr. Solenberger of Philadelphia, has been drawn into the New York office and is now under Mr. Areson's direction.

Members are requested to keep our office informed regarding the initiation and development of plans in child-care in their particular fields under the auspices of fraternal orders, church bodies or other groups, with the hope that the League may give timely and helpful advice to the leaders in these movements.

THE MERGER IN BOSTON

The Boston Society for the Care of Girls and the Boston Children's Aid Society, well known in Massachusetts as well as in the whole country as pioneers in child-helping work, have for a number of months been working out details of federation which culminated, on April 1st, in the combination of the two societies under the name of the Children's Aid Association. The societies have had much in common, and over a year ago the Secretaries and Board Members from three of the children's agencies concluded that it was time to try the experiment of federating some of the members of the group.

No part of the work which has been done by the societies in the past will be lost, and it is hoped that the new Association will be able to function in such a way as to cover some of the needs which may not have in the past been met. The work has been organized as follows: Department of Advice and Assistance; Department of Foster Home Care; Department of Home Finding; Home Library Department. In addition there is a Research Secretary and Financial Secretary.

A Research Department is being established for the purpose of concentrating on the following:

The analysis of causes which make the work necessary.

The care of problems of young people which at the present are not being met.

The effectiveness of different types of work.

Search and experiment in new ways of treating old problems.

Teaching material for students from School of Social Work and elsewhere.

AN INTERESTING CASE HISTORY

In the January number of "Mental Hygiene," Dr. Esther Loring Richards, in an article entitled "Hypochondriacal Trends in Children," publishes the following interesting case:

"No. 12 is a happier case. At the time of his first visit to our dispensary, he was a boy of almost nine years who was brought by his mother because of 'weakness,' 'tendency to heart trouble,' and 'insomnia.' Since birth he had been 'under the doctor's care.' As a baby he vomited much. He went through the usual childhood infections without adventure. At five he was circumcised and had an adenoidectomy. His schooling began with kindergarten at four. He attended school very irregularly up to eighteen months previous to his visit to the dispensary, when he was removed on a physician's advice because of sleeplessness. At the time of his examination he was still taking capsules at night for his insomnia. In spite of these handicaps, he had arrived at the third grade, and standardized with an intelligence quotient of 100 according to the Binet-Simon test. The patient's living habits were satisfactory. He had a bed to himself, and went to it early. It was always possible to coax him into eating wholesome food. Underneath his complaints was a healthy boy's desire for play.

"Physical examination in our children's dispensary revealed a normal body in every respect.

"From a social standpoint, one found a boy who for seven years had been the only child in a home of comfort and indulgence. The father earned a good salary, but stated that in the last nine years he had spent over five thousand dollars in doctors' bills on mother and patient. The mother was always ailing, with symptoms referable to every organ in her body. In seeing and talking with her, one could almost reproduce in fancy her anxious watching for the appearance of her own weakness in the person of her only child. She carried him in her arms to kindergarten for a year, and subsequently warned his teachers to report at once any phenomena of behavior that might point to overstrain. (She herself was told that she had had St. Vitus dance as a child.) As a result, the patient at eight and a half years was bathed and dressed by his mother. He cried for what he wanted and was openly disobedient. When pressed in matters of discipline, he complained of feeling badly, and talked freely of his heart and stomach and nerves being out of order. The father's attitude was one of silent acquiescence and patience.

"*Therapeutic Adjustment.*—The first point in a reconstructive program was the elimination of drugs, insistence on regular school attendance, and avoidance of spoiling on the part of the parents. With such a background as that described above, it seemed unreasonable to expect that parents and child could quickly revolutionize their habits of thinking and acting, even though the former accepted the principle on which the physician's advice was based. Accordingly it was suggested that the patient board in a county home to which we sometimes send children in need of habit training. The patient was installed in this home, where a week later he was found by the worker, overalled and sunburned, eating without capriciousness and sleeping without medicine.

"The next step in the adjustment problem was the mother. She was given a thorough and detailed examination in various departments of our dispensary. A 'grumbling appendix' was the only abnormality discovered. Operation was advised and performed, following which there was a marked improvement in feelings of bodily health and freedom from discomfort.

"The family's monthly visits to the farm were unannounced, and surprised the patient in embarrassing activities of vigor. As the time for their leaving drew near, he cried, begged to be taken home, and on several occasions even hinted darkly at headache and unwholesome food. Toward the latter part of the summer, the father's business necessitated temporary removal of the family to another city. Should they take the patient or leave him in the country for the next six months? The subject was broached to us by letter, and later made a matter of conference, with the result that the parents were quite willing to leave the child in an environment that had already proved so beneficial. The following paragraph from a letter sent the father just prior to the conference gives some idea of the type of rapport that can exist between family and social worker: 'The boy is not a delicate child, but it is the physician's belief that he needs to remain still longer in an environment where he cannot impose on those in authority over him. The stand that you and his mother have taken is an excellent one, and I can assure you that if you can bring yourselves to leave the boy where he is, you will be doing him the greatest kindness in your power. He will have regular hours and regular school attendance. These things would be difficult, if not impossible, for you to regulate when in the process of getting settled in a strange city.

"I would suggest that in your plans for W. you do not discuss them with him or before him. He is sure to take sides, and if he can get between you and precipitate a discussion, he has more than won the day."

INCREASE IN CHILD SUICIDES

Dr. Harry M. Warren, President of the Save-a-Life League of New York, makes public the following figures regarding the suicide of children: "The number for the whole country has jumped from 477, listed in 1919, to 900 in 1922, with the probability that for every known suicide there was one self-inflicted death not so listed." Dr. Warren is quoted as giving the three principal causes to be—Intolerable home conditions; faulty school systems; and temperamental disorders, and he is quoted further as saying

"Child marriage is another serious cause. In 1920 there were 1600 boys and 12,000 girls fifteen years of age in the United States listed as married. Nearly 500 of them were recorded as divorced or widowed. Many of these children soon after marriage find that they have made a great mistake in their choice—quarrel and separate—get divorced—and supply many of our suicides as well as homicides."

"Parents and teachers should educate children to avoid emotional excesses, to meet bravely the unpleasant things of life, and to consider others as well as themselves."

HIGH SPECIALIZATION

One of the children's protective agencies has been described as follows:

"It takes everything, can do anything, covers everything, goes everywhere, never does anything, and is interested in nothing."

Does this fit any members of the League?

HABIT CLINICS

Dr. Douglas A. Thom, Director of the Habit Clinics in Boston, writes about "Curing Queerness in Children" in the Survey of March 15, 1923. Two paragraphs follow:

"One little girl, aged three and a half years, was brought to the clinic because of terrifying dreams, an intense fear of dogs, and extreme shyness. It was only after the third visit that the mother herself threw much light on the origin of the child's fear of dogs. When she was about eighteen years of age, it appeared, she herself had been terrified by a dog. She had felt that it would not be a bad plan to instill this same fear in her child. By instructing the mother and giving the child a proper attitude toward animals, this fear was soon banished, and the terrifying dreams ceased without any further treatment. The child is still very shy, but is making contacts with other children, and the outlook seems good."

"It has been commonly taught and believed that suddenly and mysteriously, about the age of puberty, the individual becomes conscious of his sex life. The folly of such ignorance is pathetic and the results not infrequently irreparable. Notwithstanding the fact that certain physical and physiological changes occur at this time, the instinctive forces have been operating from infancy. There is no way of measuring the fears, the doubts, the misgivings and mental anguish that are brought about by the struggle carried on alone and unaided to solve this baffling, secretive, ever-tabooed subject of sex."

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

The Child Health Organization of America, before consolidation, published its fourth and last Annual Report as a separate organization in the form of a "Child Health Almanack." It is both clever and informing.

The Maternity and Infancy Act is being adopted by a considerable number of additional states through their legislatures. The total on March 3d was 19. Indiana, Nevada and Wyoming were the last ones to take action, but the measure for acceptance is still pending in a number of other states.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has published figures to show that when women receive adequate medical and nursing service before, during and after confinement:

1. Only 2 women instead of 7 die out of every 1,000 confinements.
2. Only 12 babies instead of 45 are still-born out of every 1,000 born.
3. Only 10 babies instead of 40 per 1,000 born alive die under one month of age.

In the Annual Report of the Juvenile Aid Society of Philadelphia for 1921-1922 the educational plans of that organization are stated as follows:

"The principle and plan of our educational work is to keep every child in school at least until he completes the eighth grade. This accomplished, the child's mental history and school record are reviewed and he is given a vocational test to determine the advisability of his continuing in school and the course upon which he is to pursue there. If continuance in Public School is inadvisable, the vocational test reveals the type of work for which the child is best suited and indicates what additional vocational training is to be given. Insofar as the meagre vocational facilities of Philadelphia permit, these directions are carried out, but frequently the exigencies of the situation require that the child be apprenticed or placed immediately at that sort of work for which he is best suited. During the last year piano lessons were arranged for each child for whom the examiner requested this, musical instruments were purchased for four boys; dancing lessons were arranged for 16 girls. Every child particularly interested in music attended the complete series of children's concerts given by the Philadelphia Orchestra or by the Philharmonic Society of Philadelphia, and about 150 children attended several of these concerts."

The Norwegian Illegitimacy Act is well summarized by Walter Clarke in the March Number of the "Journal of Social Hygiene."

On January 23, 1923, Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas introduced in the United States Congress what is known as the Uniform Divorce Bill. It was preceded by the introduction of a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in the following language:

"The Congress shall have power to make laws, which shall be uniform throughout the United States, on marriage and divorce, the legitimation of children, and the care and custody of children affected by annulment of marriage or by divorce."

The Divorce Bill prepared at the direction of and sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, contains thirty-eight sections designed, as its sponsors say, to prevent hasty and foolish marriages and to make divorce more difficult.

A valuable discussion of this Bill is found in the March Number of the "Journal of Social Hygiene."

The Pennsylvania Children's Aid Society has invited all of the 75 doctors outside of Philadelphia, who are employed at intervals in looking after the children of that Society in the boarding homes in their territory, to come to Philadelphia on April 10th for a one-day conference. A program has been worked out for that conference, designed to give them knowledge of the medical

work done by the organization in connection with the reception of children as well as the follow-up.

Children's workers will be glad to know that the April number of "The Family" contains an article by Dr. Jessie Taft on "The Placing of Children Who Are Difficult to Adjust."

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

The enclosures this month are as follows:

1. The "Children's Home Record," March, 1923, published by The Children's Home, Cincinnati, Ohio.
2. "The Wyoming Children's Friend," January-February, 1923.
3. The blotter of the Mississippi Children's Home Society.

LIBRARY LIST NUMBER 19

BOOKS

1. Copeland, Melvin T. *Business Statistics*. 1917. Recommended by Miss Georgia Ralph as a book that will give many valuable suggestions growing out of business and applicable to social agencies.
2. Dewey, John. *Human Nature and Conduct*. 1922. For social workers probably Dr. Dewey's most valuable book. It is an introduction to social psychology, and by some critics said to be the only book of value on the subject. He stresses habit instead of instincts and "sets forth a belief that an understanding of habit and of different types of habit is the key to social psychology."
3. Gillett, Lucy H. *Food Primer—for the Home*. Miss Gillett is a food specialist connected with the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, New York. The contents of the book, based upon the results of three years' research and experiment, reduce the food problem to simple, graphic terms, so that it can be easily understood by anyone who can read, and may be applied in the interests of the best health of the family.
4. Goodsell, Willystine. *The Family as a Social and Educational Institution*. 1915. This book studies the history of the family and its institutions from the most primitive days on. It deals in detail with the Hebrew, the Greek and the Roman types of the patriarchal family, discusses the influence of early Christianity upon the family, and carries its development through the middle ages up to the present. Its last chapter deals with theories of reform of the radical, conservative and moderate progressives.
5. Hudders, E. R. *Indexing and Filing*. 1918. Recommended by Miss Ralph. Not specially written for social work, but explaining valuable methods of indexing and filing in their application to social agencies, and especially to the larger ones.
6. Laughlin, Harry H. *Exhibits Book Second International Exhibition of Eugenics*. 1923. This volume supplements the two volumes previously published on the Proceedings of the Second

International Congress. It contains a description as well as illustrations and charts of the exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History, 1921.

PAMPHLETS

1. Case Studies. Series 1. Numbers 1 to 13 inclusive, published by the Judge Baker Foundation. These studies by Dr. Wm. Healy and Dr. Augusta F. Bronner, Directors of the Foundation, are very valuable. They are individual pamphlets.
2. Child Labor and the Work of Mothers in the Beet Fields of Colorado and Michigan. Published by the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor. This is Bureau Publication No. 115.
3. Extra-Institutional Care of Mental Defectives. By Dr. Earl W. Fuller, Rome State School, Rome, New York.
4. Habit Clinics for Children of the Pre-School Age. By Dr. Douglas A. Thom, Boston Psychopathic Hospital.
5. How to Avoid Spoiling the Child. By Dr. Lewellys F. Barker, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.
6. Individual Variations in Mental Equipment. By Dr. Augusta F. Bronner, Judge Baker Foundation, Boston.
7. Mental Hygiene Aspects of Illegitimacy. By Dr. Marion E. Kenworthy, New York School of Social Work.
8. Mental Hygiene Problems of Normal Adolescence. By Dr. Jessie Taft, Children's Aid Society, Philadelphia.
9. The Right to Marry. What Can a Democratic Civilization Do About Heredity and Child Welfare? By Dr. Adolf Meyer, Phipps Psychiatric Clinic, Baltimore.
10. Speech Defects in School Children. By Dr. Smiley Blanton, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Pamphlets 3-10 inclusive have all been published by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.
11. Infant Mortality. By Elizabeth Hughes. Published by the Children's Bureau. This is Bureau Publication No. 112. It is based on the results of field study in Gary, Indiana, and is the ninth in the Bureau's Series of reports on infant mortality.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

CONNECTICUT.—Connecticut Children's Aid Society, Hartford. Miss Julia M. Hinaman, Executive Secretary, to succeed Arthur H. Taylor, resigned.

MASSACHUSETTS.—Boston Children's Aid Association. New address, 24 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston.

Springfield.—Hampden County Children's Aid Association. Miss Nettie I. Furrows, Executive Secretary, to succeed Miss Grace W. Redding, resigned.

WISCONSIN.—Children's Home Society, Milwaukee. Warren B. Hill, M.D., appointed Superintendent to succeed Dr. J. P. Dysart, appointed Emeritus.

C. C. CARSTENS, *Director*